IN THE CLAIMS

1-59 (canceled)

60. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

decoding the code vector, wherein the decoding includes deriving a constellation of received signal values corresponding to the code vector; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of reliability of the decoding.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising controlling an equalizer in accordance with the reliability factor.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the one received signal value is a largest of the received signal values.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values

comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between two of the received signal values.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between a largest and a next largest of the received signal values.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising controlling an equalizer in accordance with the reliability factor.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a comparison of the one received signal value to a threshold.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the one received signal value is a largest one of the received signal values.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon a comparison of the one received signal value to a threshold comprises generating the reliability factor only if the one received signal value is greater than the threshold.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 66 wherein the reliability factor that is generated is dependent upon the magnitude of the one received signal value.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the received signal values are correlation peaks.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the received signal values.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the received signal values comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between a square of a largest and a square of a next largest of the received signal values.

73. (new) A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

decoding the received code vector, wherein the decoding includes correlating the received code vector with a plurality of reference code vectors so as to produce a plurality of values, and wherein the values correspond to an amount of correlation between the received code vector and the reference code vectors; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

74. (new) The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a largest of the values.

75.   (new)   The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

76.   (new)   The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a largest and a next largest of the values.

77.   (new)   The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

78.   (new)   The method of claim 73 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.

79.   (new)   A method comprising:

receiving a signal containing a code vector;

deriving a constellation of a plurality of sets of values corresponding to the code vector, wherein one of the sets contains a value that is largest;

decoding the code vector according to the set of values containing the largest value; and,

generating a reliability factor based upon at least one of the values, wherein the reliability factor is a measure of the reliability of the decoding.

80. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on the largest value.

81. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between two of the values.

82. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a difference between a the largest value and a next largest value.

83. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based on a comparison of one of the values to a threshold.

84. (new) The method of claim 79 wherein the generating of a reliability factor comprises generating a reliability factor based upon a difference between the squares of two of the values.